



Volume 30
Issue 1 *Fall/Winter*

Article 14

11-15-2013

Learning a New Game

Janet Jennings

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>



Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Jennings, Janet (2013) "Learning a New Game," *Westview*: Vol. 30 : Iss. 1 , Article 14.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol30/iss1/14>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.



Learning a New Game

Janet Jennings

We sit on the family
room floor to play Fish

for the first time. I show
my daughters how to shuffle,

cut, deal, match. We play
open hand. They don't know

yet about winning—proud
of the five big, blue-backed

cards they hold. We place
them face up on the brown,

stain-blended rug. Stella
Starfish, Leroy Lobster,

and their friends. Charlie
hands me her seahorse

to make a pair, lit up
with being the first

to spot a match. She gives
her cards away with such



Illustration by SWOSU Design Studio

pleasure, and I catch
myself already tensed

with the habit of going
it alone, defending what's

mine. They are laughing,
my daughters, leaning in

to each other, making
sets of two on the floor.

Living close to the ground can
change things. Out

beyond the idea of winning
or losing, there is a world.

From Sow's Ear Review